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HAVING To BELIEVE

SARA,
ARE YOU
AWAKE?

I AM
NOW...

I'M HERE
TO SHOW YOU
PANGEA.

AT
3 A.M.?

LOOK,
NORBERT...
I DUNNO...

YES.

CAN'T
THIS WAIT UNTIL
MORNING?

IT'S THE
ONLY WAY TO
STOP IAGO
THE SLUG
FROM KILLING
AGAIN.

SARA,
IF I TOLD YOU
THAT **STEVE** WAS
HURT AND NEEDED
YOUR **HELP**, AND I
COULD TAKE YOU TO
HIM, WOULD YOU
COME WITH ME
THEN?

~SIGH~

I DON'T
GET OUT OF BED
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT
FOR JUST
ANYBODY...

OF COURSE
NOT. YOU'RE VERY
DISCRIMINATING.

OKAY, I CHECKED...
HE'S **NOT** IN BED, BUT
YOU BETTER NOT BE
SCREWING WITH ME,
NORBERT...

WE'RE HOME.

SARA, YOU'RE ABOUT TO ENTER A MAGICAL PLACE.

A JUNKYARD...?

I FEEL COLD... AND LIKE I'M ABOUT TO BURST.

IN PANGEA THIS AREA ISN'T A JUNKYARD, BUT A POWER SPOT. CAN YOU FEEL IT?

YES, I ALSO FEEL COLD AND EMPTY IN THIS PLACE...

NO, I'M FREEZING AND I HAVE TO FEE.

OH.

I CHOSE THIS SPOT TO REBUILD THE WORLD I CAME FROM, PANGEA.

COME, SARA, WE MUST TRAVEL AS CHILDREN UPON OUR HANDS AND KNEES THROUGH THE CASTLE OF QUILTS.

AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND STEVE?

THERE YOU WILL SEE THE FIRST FOUR, WHO WERE SENT BEFORE ME TO STOP IAGO, BUT ALL FAILED.

WHEN YOU LOOK UPON THEIR FACES, YOU WILL REMEMBER THEM, AND WILL RETURN TO PANGEA.

THUNDERPIG!
LOOK OUT!
SARA, DUCK!

WHAT?!
I DON'T SEE--

WE'LL BE SAFE DOWN HERE. THUNDERPIGS ARE FOOLISH AND AFRAID. THEY WILL NOT JUMP DOWN A HOLE IF THEY DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT LEADS.

UNLIKE US.

WHUMP

OOOF! THANKS FOR THE WARNING. ANYWAY, WHAT'S THIS PLACE YOU COME FROM LIKE? DO THE WHALES FLOAT IN THE AIR?

FOLLOW ME, IT'S OOOF! WATCH THAT FIRST--

I THINK SO... BUT I CAN'T SEE A THING! HOW DO WE FIND STEVE? IS HE HURT BAD?

SARA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, OF COURSE NOT. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT WHALES PUSH THROUGH THE EARTH, NOT THE AIR.

WOW, AN "EARTH WHALE". COOL.

OKAY, SO WHAT ELSE GOES ON THERE?

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN ANOTHER WORLD?

LOOK, MAXX, I WON'T LIE...I'D LOVE TO BE STEVE, YOU, OR MY OLD FRIENDS DAVE AND JULIE AND PRETEND THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD.

BUT I HAVE A SERIES OF BELIEFS. I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THEM--I HAVE TO. IF THEY'RE NOT TRUE, THEN THE WHOLE WORLD MEANS NOTHING.

OKAY, SARA...WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

THE PRINCESS IN HER QUILT CASTLE COULD MOVE THINGS WITH HER MIND. HER LEFT HAND WOULD START TO GLOW AND...

MAXX, WILL YOU SHUT UP!

BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU COULD MOVE A GLASS OF WATER WITH YOUR MIND, YOU'D STILL BE THE SAME SCREWED-UP PERSON YOU WERE BEFORE, RIGHT?

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD, OR THAT PEOPLE CAN MOVE THINGS WITH THEIR MINDS, OR THAT MY MOM'S GOING TO RECOVER FROM CANCER OVERNIGHT JUST TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER--OR THAT MY DAD'S JUST A SWELL GUY WHO'S MISUNDERSTOOD.

SORRY.



KEEP GOING,
WE'RE ALMOST
THERE! CAN YOU
FEEL THE MAGIC,
MY PRINCESS?

OH, YEAH,
CRAWLING ON MY
HANDS AND KNEES
THROUGH GARBAGE
ALWAYS MAKES
ME FEEL
MAGICAL.

A CYNICAL
ATTITUDE MASKS
A BROKEN
HEART.

DEEP.

NOW YOU'RE
SURE HE'S RIGHT
HERE, MAXX? WAIT--
I THINK I SEE THE
OPENING...

YOU'VE
MADE IT, MY
PRINCESS.
YOU'RE IN
PANGEA!

I DON'T
BELIEVE IT, MY
CHILDHOOD TOYS.
I HAVEN'T SEEN
THEM SINCE I WAS
A **LITTLE**
GIRL!

PUMPKIN!


**MR. YAKITY-
TAKITY!**

POOCHIE!

**AND MR.
DIAL-A-
DOODLE!**

THEY'RE
REAL--

--AND
THEY'RE
HUGE!



HEY WAAAIIIT
A MINUTE! I MUST
BE LOSING MY
MARBLES!


SARA, WAIT!
YOU'RE SLIPPING
BACK!

IT'S JUST
JUNK! A CHEESY
STONEHEDGE
BUILT TO LOOK
LIKE MY **OLD**
TOYS!

BUT **WHY**,
NORBERT? AND
WHERE THE HELL
IS **STEVE?**

YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHERE
STEVE IS, DO YOU?
HE'S PROBABLY OUT
BOOZING IT UP
WITH **SKYE**.

BOY,
AM I A
SUCKER.



THIS IS WHAT
I GET FOR LETTING
ANOTHER LOONEY
INTO MY LIFE! DAMN
IT, NORBERT!

I'VE FAILED.
THE FOUR YOU
MENTIONED WERE SENT
HERE FROM PANGEA TO STOP
IAGO...BUT WERE SLAIN. I
BUILT THESE MONUMENTS IN
THEIR MEMORY--AND I
HOPED THAT SEEING THEM
WOULD HELP YOU
REMEMBER.

BONK

UH-OH,
SARA, WATCH
OUT--



SARA?
SARA?
WAKE UP!

**SHUT UP,
NORBERT. I'M
TRYING TO
GET SOME
SLEEP.**

NOW WHERE
WAS I?
OH YEAH...

**AMAZING
DREAM
of
MAXX & JULE**

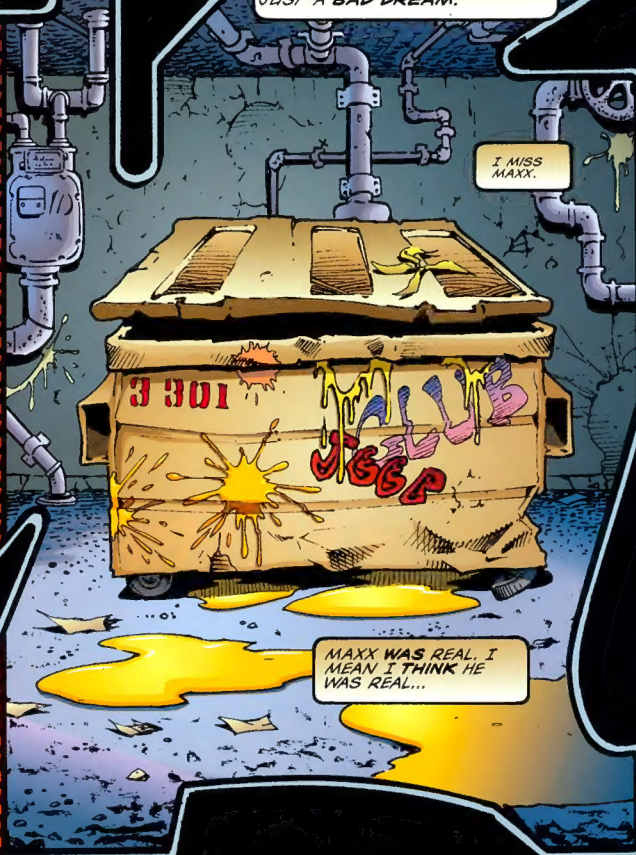
MAXX

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IN
OTHER
WORLDS.

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING I
USED TO BELIEVE IS JUST
FALLING APART...LIKE IT WAS ALL
A DREAM. MOM'S CANCER,
DAD'S CRIMES, MAXX AND
JULIE LEAVING...LIKE IT WAS ALL
JUST A BAD DREAM.

I MISS
MAXX.

MAXX WAS REAL, I
MEAN I THINK HE
WAS REAL...



...I MEAN I
KNOW HE
WASN'T REAL...
BUT I BELIEVED
IN HIM
ANYWAY.
I MEAN...



LOOKY, WUGS. THERE'S
S'POSE T'BE SOME OLD
BUM WHO LIVES INNA
DUMPSTER HERE.



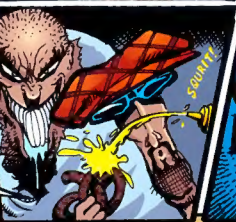
D'WE GET T'BURN
HIM, HUH? DO WE,
PABLO? HUH?
HUH?

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH!



GO WAY,
I'M WEAK AND
DEFENSELESS!
I'M JUST A SHORT,
LI'L GUY.

M'BBEE.



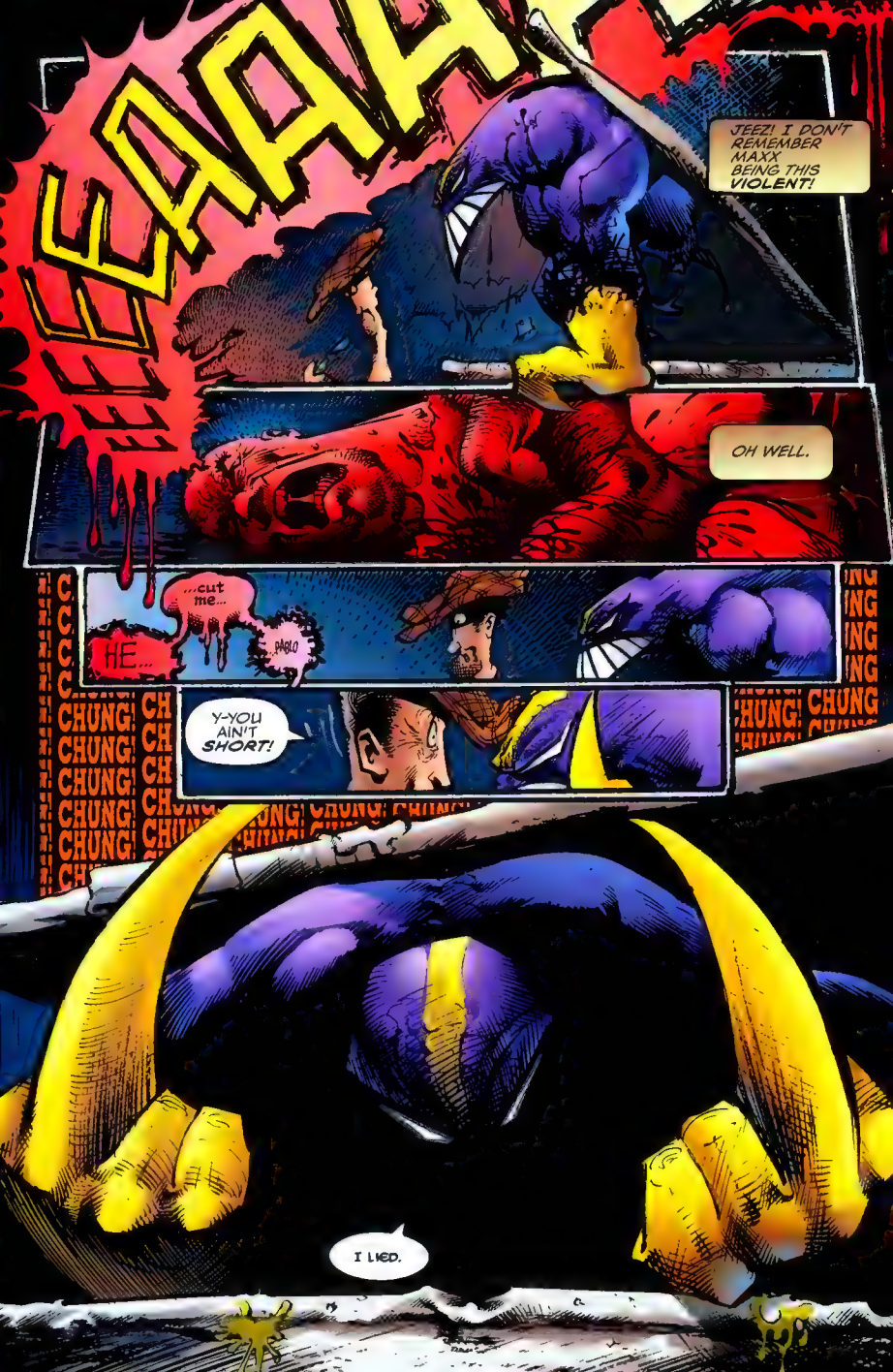
SHORT, HUH?
YOU GOT ENNY
FOOD IN THERE?
ENNY MONEY?
I GOTTA MATCH
OUT HERE W/
Y'R NAME ON
IT!



YEAH, I'M
SHORT...



BUT I
C'N REACH
YOU!



JEEZ! I DON'T
REMEMBER
MAXX
BEING THIS
VIOLENT!

OH WELL.

...cut
me...

HE...

Y-YOU
AIN'T
SHORT!

I LIED.

YOU AIN'T
GETTIN' ME!

SPLAT!

NOBODY
GETS PABLO
MCARTHUR!

**WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM**

GOTTA
GET AWAY!
GOTTA GET
HELP!

BOY, THAT
MUST'VE HURT!

BUT WHAT
WAS WORSE...

...WAS THE
HUMILIATION!

THE CITY'S
HERO.

BEATEN BY
ONE GLY.

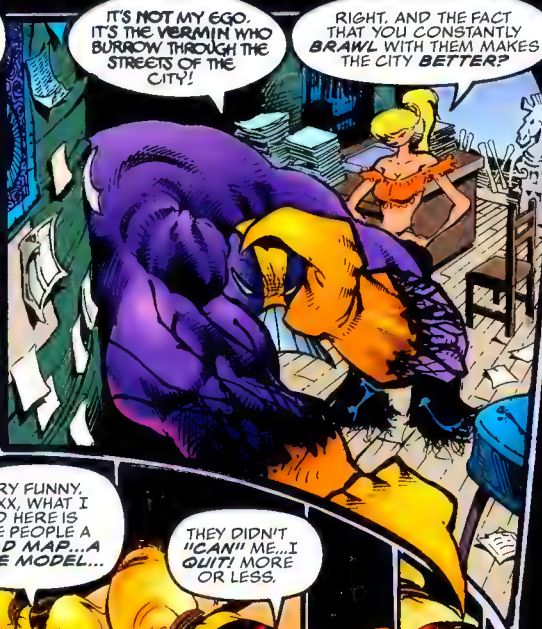
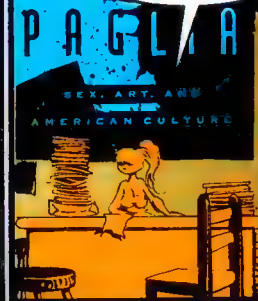
WITH A
GARBAGE
CAN LID!

NOW THAT'S
THE MAXX I
REMEMBER!

SO
ESSENTIALLY,
IT'S YOUR **EGO**
WE'RE CHATTING
ABOUT HERE?

IT'S NOT MY EGO.
IT'S THE **VERMIN** WHO
BURROW THROUGH THE
STREETS OF THE
CITY!

RIGHT, AND THE FACT
THAT YOU CONSTANTLY
BRAWL WITH THEM MAKES
THE CITY **BETTER**?



IT DOES **NOT!**
PEOPLE DRIFT INTO
CRIME BECAUSE THEY
DON'T KNOW ANY BET-
TER. THEY NEED TO BE
TAUGHT...NURTURED...

VERY FUNNY,
MAXX, WHAT I
DO HERE IS
GIVE PEOPLE A
ROAD MAP...A
ROLE MODEL...

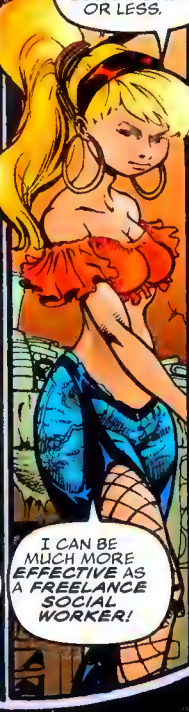
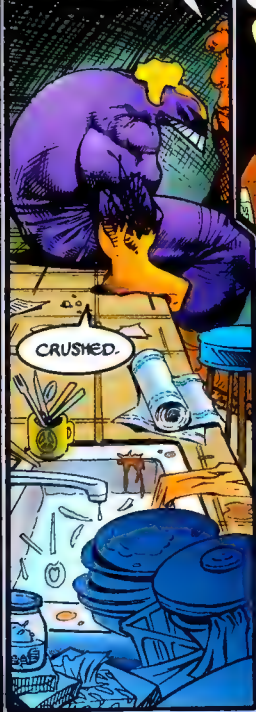
THEY DIDN'T
"**CAN**" ME...I
QUIT! MORE
OR LESS.

CRUSHED.

DIDN'T
THEY CAN YOU
AT **SOCIAL**
SERVICES?

I CAN BE
MUCH MORE
EFFECTIVE AS
A **FREELANCE**
SOCIAL
WORKER!

I DON'T SEE
WHAT'S SO **DARN**
FUNNY.



SO YOU HADDA JOB
MOST PEOPLE'D RATHER
EAT GROUND GLASS
THAN DO... AND YOU
QUIT SO YOU C'D DO
IT FREE?

AND
YOU
THINK
I'M
NUTS?

I THINK YOU'RE
A MAN WHO SEES
AIR-WHALES.
THERE'S A NEW
COPY OF *PSYCHOL-
OGY* TODAY IN
THERE. ENJOY.

I'LL BE
OUT HERE
HELPING
PEOPLE!

Umm. HI. I
CAME TO GET
FOOD STAMPS...
WELFARE...
ADC...

FINE.
GOOD.
AND
YOUR
NAME IS
PABLO,
RIGHT?

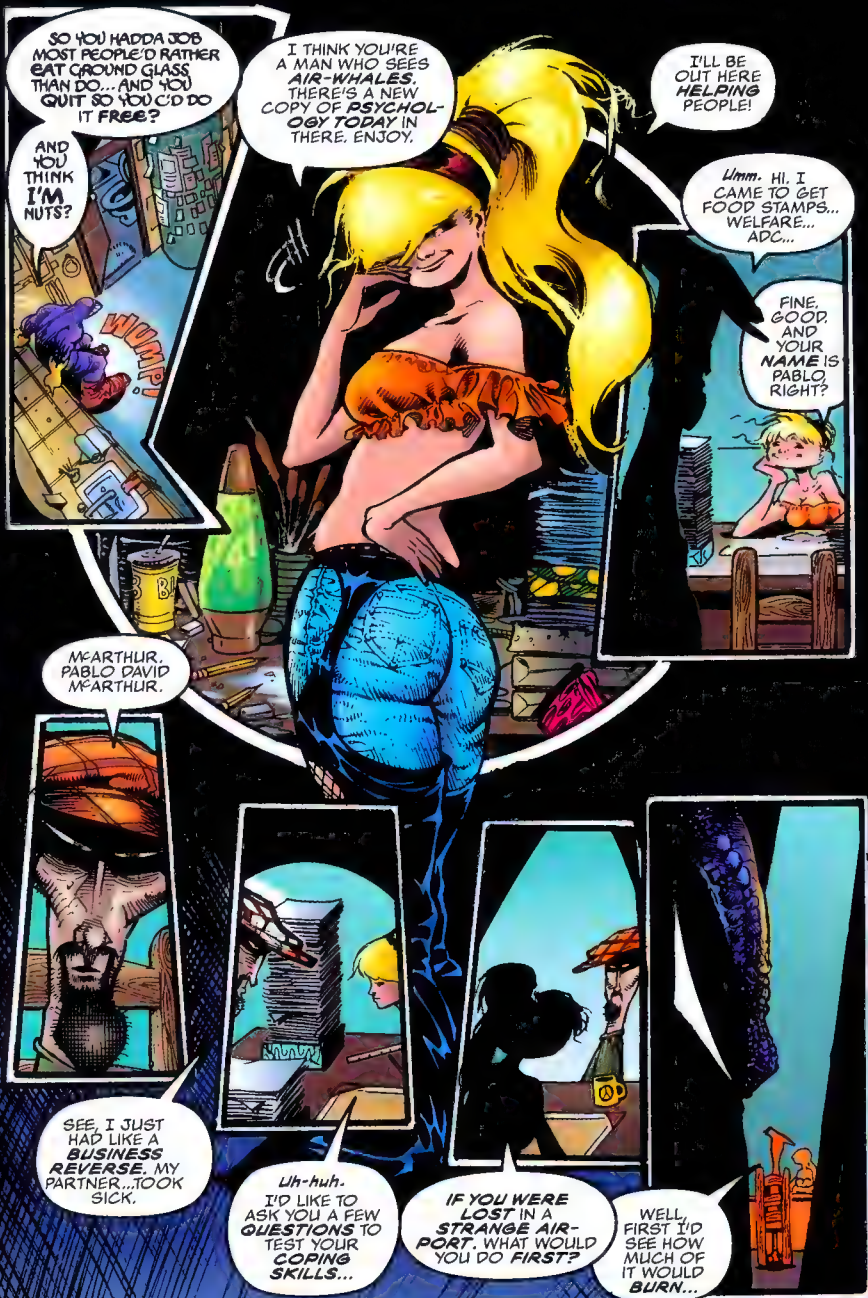
MCARTHUR.
PABLO DAVID
MCARTHUR.


SEE, I JUST
HAD LIKE A
BUSINESS
REVERSE. MY
PARTNER...TOOK
SICK.

Uh-huh.
I'D LIKE TO
ASK YOU A FEW
QUESTIONS TO
TEST YOUR
COPING
SKILLS...

IF YOU WERE
LOST IN A
STRANGE AIR-
PORT. WHAT WOULD
YOU DO FIRST?

WELL,
FIRST I'D
SEE HOW
MUCH OF
IT WOULD
BURN...





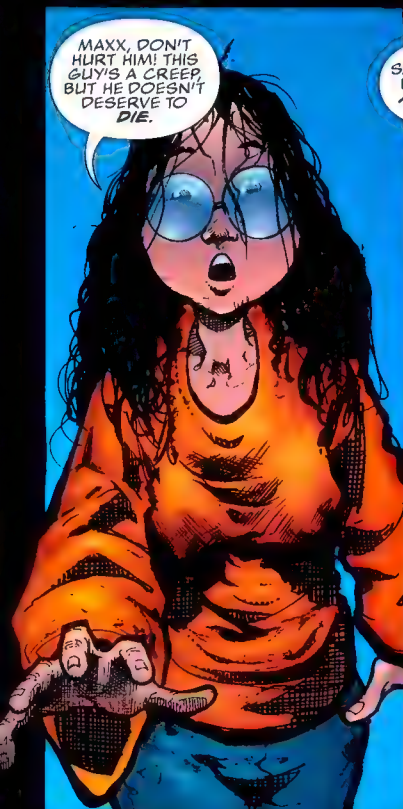
LOOK OUT, JULIE! HE HAS
MUSTARD
AND HE KNOWS
HOW TO USE IT!

YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM
ME, PABLO!

YOU CAN'T
TOUCH ME.
I'M IN A
SOCIAL
WORKER'S
OFFICE.

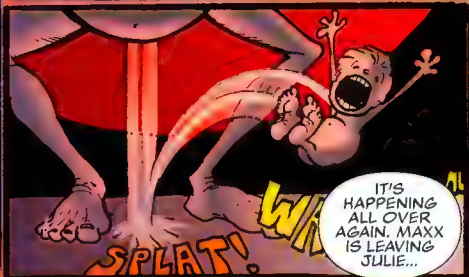
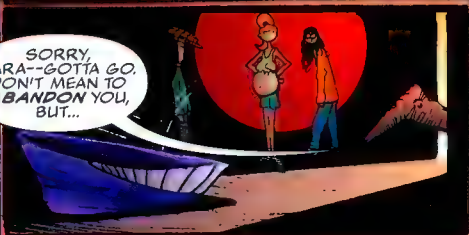
OKAY, MAYBE
YOU CAN, BUT THAT
DOESN'T MAKE IT
RIGHT.

EVERYBODY
FREEZE!



MAXX, DON'T HURT HIM! THIS GUY'S A CREEP, BUT HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO DIE.

SORRY, SARA--GOTTA GO. DON'T MEAN TO ABANDON YOU, BUT...



IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN. MAXX IS LEAVING JULIE...



...AND JULIE IS LEAVING ME...



...JUST LIKE MOM AND DAD.

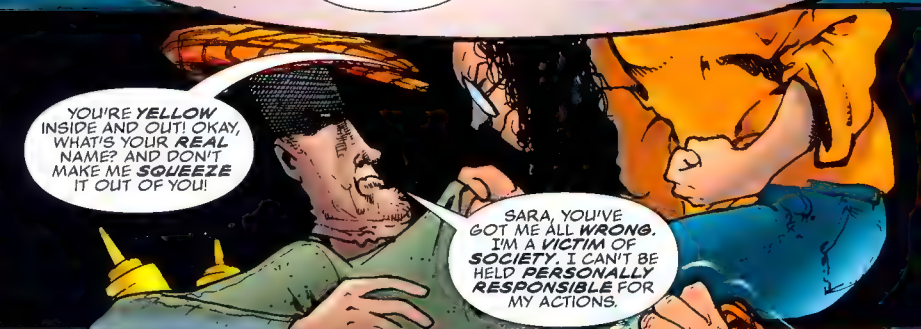
YOUR MOM DIDN'T LEAVE YOU.

WHAT A WIMP.

WELL, EMOTIONALLY SHE DID.

BACK OFF, PABLO DAVID M'ARTHUR!

I KNOW YOUR NAME, AND LIKE IN RUMPELSTILTSKIN, I'VE JUST STOLEN YOUR POWER!





THE **IRONY** IS, THERE'S ONLY **ONE** PERSON I WANT FORGIVENESS FROM, BUT MY **DEFENSE** ARE TOO STRONG, I'M NOT ABOUT TO ADMIT **VULNERABILITY** WHILE I'M MR. GONE, YOU WOULDN'T **BELIEVE** IT.



DON'T STOP HERE, SARA, KEEP GOING! PEEL BACK ANOTHER LAYER!



HIS FACE IS ANOTHER MASK!

DADDY?

SARA! HOW'S MY LITTLE **PEANUT**? HELP DADDY OUT OF THESE TOYS.

DADDY, YOU'RE **BACK**! MOMMY SAID YOU **KILLED** YOURSELF.

PEANUT, SHE WAS JUST **PROTECTING** YOU.

WHY DID YOU **LEAVE** ME AND MOMMY, DADDY? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T **LOVE** ME. DID I DO SOMPIN' BAD TO MAKE YOU **ANGRY**?

NO, SWEETIE. DADDY IS **SORRY** HE LEFT. HE WAS **SICK**, BUT HE'S BETTER NOW. HE **LOVES** YOU AND WILL **NEVER** LEAVE YOU AGAIN.

DON'T LISTEN, SARA!

NO! DADDY **LOVES** ME!

SARA, **LOOK OUT!** JUMP ON **HORSIE'S BACK!**
I'LL **SAVE** YOU FROM THAT **EVIL SLUG!**

...**SOMEDAY**.

KEEP GOING, HORSIE! GIDDYUP!

FASTER FASTER! HE'S **GAINING!**

I'M SURE HE **DOES...**

...**BUT EVERYBODY** LEAVES...



DON'T
STOP...HORSIE...
KEEP GOING...

HUH?
WHAT A FREAKY
NIGHTMARE!

WELL...*THIS* IS
KIND OF AWKWARD.
AT LEAST ME AND
NORBERT ARE THE
ONLY ONES HERE...

SARA!
YOU'RE
AWAKE!
FINALLY!

WHAT
HAPPENED?

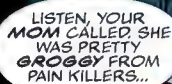
LISTEN--
IT'S NONE OF MY
BUSINESS, BUT DON'T
THINK IT'S KIND OF
DANGEROUS TO GO
OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT TO A
JUNKYARD AND GET
HIT ON THE
HEAD?

WE WERE
LOOKING FOR
YOU, YOU
IDIOT.

ANYWAY,
THAT GUY BROUGHT
YOU HERE IN THE RAIN
AND PROBABLY
SAVED YOUR
LIFE.

I GUESS
HE'S 0-FOR-2
BETWEEN THE
TWO OF US.

YEAH.
I GUESS
SO...



LISTEN, YOUR
MOM CALLED SHE
WAS PRETTY
GROSSY FROM
PAIN KILLERS...



...BUT
SHE SAID YOUR
GRANDDAD WAS
BURIED, NOT
CREMATED!




SO WHAT'S
YOUR DAD UP
TO, LYING
ABOUT THE
URN?



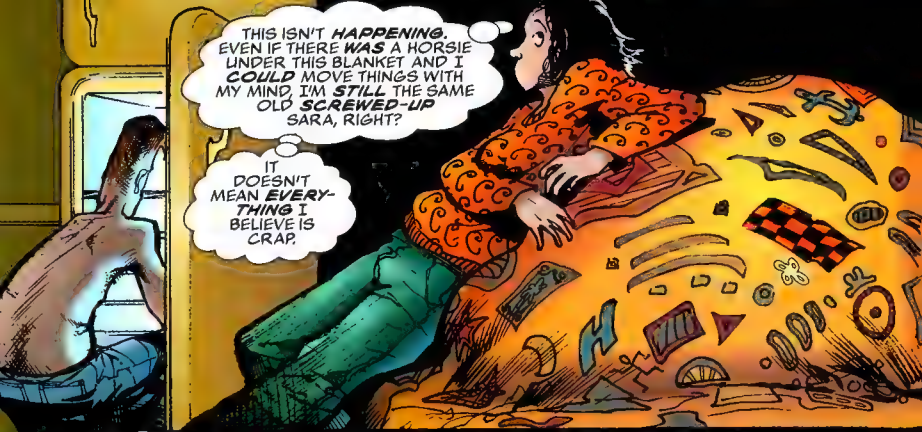
I KNEW
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
PSYCHIC
GOING ON
WITH THAT
THING...




SNORT
SNORT



...WISH I
COULD GET THE
LIP OFF...MAYBE
WITH MY
MIND.





SO, NORBERT,
YOU SAY YOU'RE
ACTUALLY A "PART OF
SARA'S PSYCHE"
THAT CAME INTO OUR
WORLD TO STOP A
KILLER SLUG?

AND SARA'S
A PRINCESS WHO
MOVES THINGS
WITH HER MAGIC
HAND?

I WOULDN'T
POINT FINGERS,
STEVE.

LOOK, I KNOW
YOU SEE ME OUT THERE
EXPLORING **PSYCHIC
PHENOMENA**, AND YOU
GUYS WANT IN ON IT TOO.
BUT YOU GOTTA UNDER-
STAND I'M A **TRAINED
PROFESSIONAL**. YOU
GUYS ARE GONNA
NEED MY **HELP**.

SO
WHAT'S
YOUR
ADVICE?

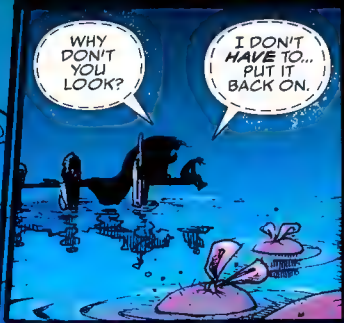
LET'S CALL IT
A NIGHT AND GO
HOME FOR **CEREAL
AND PIZZA**. WE
NEED TO REPLENISH
OUR **PSYCHIC
ENERGY**.

STEVE,
YOU'RE
FIRED.

LOOK, THE
TRUTH IS, YOU GUYS
DON'T EVEN **HAVE** PSYCHIC
ABILITIES! I'M THE ONE
WHO **DESERVES ESP** AND
MIND POWERS. WHY DOES
THIS ALWAYS HAVE TO BE
ABOUT **YOU, SARA?** I'M
THE ONE WHO'S
STUDIED--

LOOK, STEVE, I
CAN'T HELP IT IF I'VE GOT
A GUY WHO FOLLOWS ME
AROUND THINKING I'M
MORE PSYCHIC THAN **YOU--**
I'M SORRY, BUT **DEAL**
WITH IT! IF I BELIEVED FOR A
MINUTE THAT I REALLY
DID HAVE MAGIC POWERS
I'D **GIVE** THEM TO YOU
RIGHT NOW, **OKAY?**
HAPPY?

STEVE,
WAIT--AW,
GEEZ...





OK—next issue (April) is Friends of Maxx #1. We already talked about that last issue; every third issue this year will be like a little detour from Maxx. These are stories that don't fit in the regular continuity, but ones that I wanted to tell anyway. Now don't write me a bunch of letters saying WHERE THE HELL IS MAXX? That's the point—he's on vacation. (Note: The Maxx that introduces 'Dude Japan' and the other stories is the old Maxx, not the new one.)

WE NEED BLACK & WHITE FAN ART!
We've been getting too much color stuff and not enough b/w. I'm wise to why you send in color—going for that Big Back Cover in the Sky—but your odds of getting printed improve astronomically if you send in b/w.

Kool things to Konsume (here's where I sell stuff blah blah): (1) Todd's Maxx toy is out and awesome. Most come with a black is; keep your peepers peeled for the rarer white ones in some packages. Thanks to Todd and his Crew for such an outstanding job! (2) Homage's Maxx trading cards featuring other artists are out/look spiffy/have done well. (3) Best of all, the damn tapes will be available from Sony at the end of April—check yer video stores. This is a chance for everyone who doesn't have MTV to say, "What the heck was all the fuss about?"

WHOA!

Hold on here. Are you trying to tell me in Issue 21 that the things that happened in issues #1-20 never happened (according to the prune-faced Gone). And what about what Julie was about to say in #20. And her baby. You better make up your homework in later issues, Boy.

Keep up the brainwashing,
Cy
Puyallup, WA

Lu-cy...Sam's got some 'splainin' to do...

Sam Kieth,

After reading Issue 21, I was again lost in this plot, which I finally grasped about Issues 17-18. However, please don't feel the need to explain, 'cause I like reading each issue and figuring out the plot for myself. I'm sure it will be spectacular...

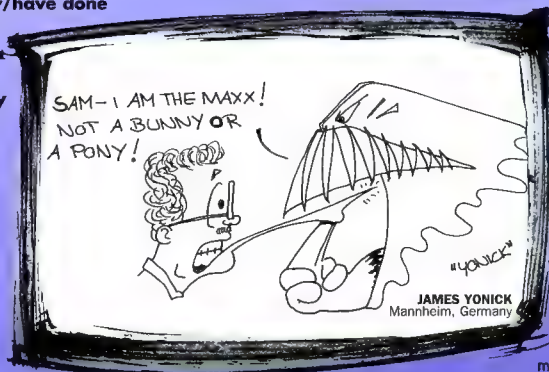
Thanks,
Stacy R,
Lake Ozark, MO

Never mind, Lucy.

Sam,

I felt hesitant about a new Maxx, but after reading #21 I'm still hooked. Possibly more so. I like Sara's look, the near-future setting, the CIA thing and Mr. Go-uh, Artie, he's twice as interesting now. The atmosphere reminds me a little of Brazil (the movie). Is Terry Gilliam an influence? Maybe you influenced him! The art is beautiful. I just hope horsie Maxx will have comparable shoe size to bunny Maxx. I mean, he's gotta be a Clydesdale, right? Also, the new cards are very cool and the figure is incredible! One store was selling it for \$20. Should I wait?

Ark Ran Ski
Pasadena, CA



Hey Sam,

First things first. In Issue 19, you printed that I live in Olney, MO when I really live in Olney, MD! Alright, now that that's cleared up, I have to say I loved Issue 21! It was so cool to see Sara and Mr. Gone in the year 2005. In this issue, Mr. Gone tells Sara that this Mr. Gone character was all made up.

WHAT THE HELL? Yeah, right. [Sara doesn't buy it either.]

Sara should have a better apartment. I think Norbert is Sara's Maxx. Why are you taking so long to come out with new Maxx comics? I bet you five bucks you won't print this, but I don't have five bucks! Ha ha ha ha!

See ya,
Todd Killick
Olney, Maryland

P.S. Put a lava lamp in the comic, and I live in MARYLAND.

Dear Sam,

I just picked up Issue 21 and at first it scared me, it was too much to handle. I thought it over and realized, "Hey, wait—I love this stuff. Why am I worrying?" So now I obviously have some questions.

1. I thought Artemis was a blob of brain goo on Julie's ceiling.
2. Why doesn't he talk all cool anymore (underlined vowels)?
3. Where is Julie and her baby?
4. Where did all the isz go?
5. Will we ever see Maxx or Dave or whatever the hell you call him?
6. Is Norbert the guy who stepped on the banana slug?

Your fan,
Brandon Aylward
Simi Valley, CA

1. Yeah—ten years ago. He recovered.
2. Because Mike Heisler was REALLY sick of going back and underlining all the vowels. He rebelled. I have no control...
3. Be patient.
4. Think parallel—this is Sara's outback, not Julie's.
5. Good question.
6. No. Norbert's the name of Sara's childhood rocking horse.

Dear Sam,

Just when I thought I had The Maxx figured out, you do this. I didn't know what was going to happen when you moved ten years into the future. I guess it's turned out to be another puzzle.

In Issue 21, Gone (aka Artie) tells Sara (aka Sarah) that she created the image of him being Gone in her head. How is it possible that Sara created Gone in her head when he rapes Julie, fights The Maxx and is seen by just about everyone in the book as Mr. Gone BEFORE Sara is even introduced to The Maxx. Either Artie is lying, or you screwed something up.

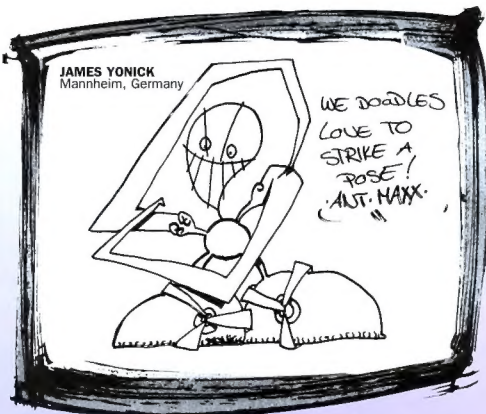
Sincerely,
Sean Miller
Shelburne, MA

(Usually both—) Actually, there are two Gones. Julie's is a villain who did all the stuff you said. But what if your dad did something really bad? He's still your dad, and you love him. That's Sara's Gone—and Sara's dilemma.

Dear Sam,

So Gone was just a projection of Julie/Sara(h)/Dave/Artie's (and Sam's) subconscious...that explains how he knows their minds, and why he couldn't die, and why he couldn't do magic like the real Artie can. Some of y'all may not like the horse/Sara thing, but I think it roxx. And Dave's totem animal is a fish, right? (#14) Fish are cool.

The cover of #21 rulz. I wonder if Sara inherited Artie's magic like Julie inherited her mom's vision...kuul. #40-60 should be where Dave finally gets through his Outback, maybe with lots of moral support from Julie and Sara...except Julie might mess him up worse, huh...



Peace and stuff
Dave (the other Dave)
Saline, MI

I'm not complex enough to have a subconscious.

Dear Sam and the rest of you Maxx makers,

I really love your book. My intense liking of this comic leads me to only one avenue of behavior, and that is to scrutinize—I'm funny that way. So, the following questions about Issue #21 are half things I am curious about, and half passive aggressive ways of pointing out what I believe to be flaws in your story.

1. Didn't Sara's Dad kill himself?
2. Don't you think it's odd that Sara grew up to have the same exact body as Julie?
3. Why does the cover have nothing to do with the story?
4. How did Sara go from wearing all black to pink bunny slippers?
5. Why does Sara's spirit animal look like Julie's?
6. Why did the letter column refer to Sara's spirit animal as The Maxx?
7. Do you think it would be possible to throw an is or two into this new story? (I've kind of become attached to the little fellows.)

Sincerely, someone who would
love to climb in your ear and
swim in your synapses,
Patrick T. MacBlain

1. No, and this ish explains why.
 2. Not when the artist only knows how to draw one body.
 3. Actually, the story has nothing to do with the cover.
 4. Hey—it was a dream. Sara only dreamt she wore bunny slippers, etc.
 - 5/6. Every spirit animal is named The Maxx—they're just different animals behind the mask.
 7. Sorry—the exploding fairies will have to hold you for a bit.
- And you stay the heck OUT of my synapses.**

Dear Maxx writers,

I haven't read or watched The Maxx for a long

time because the show scared me a little. On MTV, there was a lot of cussing in The Maxx, and I think that's unnecessary. And a whole lot of weirdness. I can't comprehend anything that goes on very much. It's just too strange. The weird thing about all of this is, I actually LIKE the show and the comic. Funky.

I recently bought #21, and I have to admit, it was good. Very good. Sara(h) finding out her father was Mr. Gone sent shivers down my spine. How was her father ever Mr. Gone? Reincarnation? I'm not sure. And just who are those CIA agents? What do they want? And where the heck is Maxx when you need him?

This is all too suspenseful for me, but I like it. The only thing I don't like is.....why can't the world get along in the year 2005 in your comic? It seems that it's gotten worse. I have nothing against different peoples of different cultures. I think it's sad that in the future we'd be fighting with the Mexicans. I hope this never happens—we may be fighting WWII if this violence and mayhem keep up.

A picky fan,
Elizabeth Berndt
Martinsville, IN

Alan Moore, who wrote most of #21, is noted for being a horror writer and for writing bleak visions of a totalitarian, futuristic society. That's why his issue of Maxx may have seemed a little darker than our usual fare.

Sam Kieth,

Wow! Maxx #21 kicked butt! Being a poor college student, I have never been able to read something of Alan Moore's (The Maxx is the closest I get to reading a super-hero title). This has been the best issue since you introduced Sara(h) to the readers. The CIA agents were like a cross between Jules and Vincent of *Pulp Fiction*, and Mulder and Scully of *X-Files*. It was very cool. The inner story about nicotine and food was reflective of this future, along with the social reforms of the welfare system. I think Norbert might have some connection to um...

Anyway, Alan Moore has just upped the par of your book. Either bring Alan back (I love it) or kidnap him, lock him into a basement, and feed him Pez 'til he submits these full-blown scripts he is capable of.

I want Alan!
Gabriel Siqueiros
Modesto, CA

Alan definitely rocks. But locking Alan in the basement and feeding him Pez is pretty much how we treated him in the first place—actually it's how we treated all our staff around here...

Alan did more on the first 14 pages than on the rest of the issue, since the direction of the book forced his ending to be amended. He is great to work with, and I hope we can do it again. I appreciate the creative boost he gave the book.

By the way, from here on out, Norbert and Maxx are pretty much interchangeable terms...

Dear Sam and The Maxx,

Got a kick out of The Maxx #21. So that's how the CIA of the year 2005 AD is depicted. What was strange about this issue was that some of the charac-

ters remind me of some "spooks" I used to work with during my days with the US Army's MI (Military Intelligence) in Seoul, Korea. During a "real world" situation in Korea, we had to hobnob with some Korean CIA guys, some regular American CIA guys, and a few DIA/NSA guys. They were a barrel of laughs and their personality is a lot like the characters depicted in The Maxx. Couldn't believe it. I guess even in the year 2005 AD, spooks will still be spooks.

Ex-spook signing off,
Paul Dale Roberts
Sacramento, CA

Dear Mr. Kieth,

I think you should give John Foster Parnes, Glynn Franklin, Larry Mattox, Irwin Rosteval, and The Wall their very own series because they kick ass. They are just too damn funny for words. I love 'em.

Please give them a series.

Alex Goodmally
Annapolis, MD

Gee—Gone used them for fish bait. Oh well. But keep your eyes peeled for more of Major Rosteval, the gay ghost in Sara's urn.

Dear Sam,

Hi! It's me again. The Maxx 2 which I was referring is Julie's rabbit. I'm not quite used to Maxx being a horse. I'll need 2 accept him as a horse B-4 I make love to him. Who would want 2 exchange body fluids w/a bum named Dave?

So what's the verdict? Can Maxx procreate or what?? I NEED 2 KNOW!

Rita
Newark, DE

How about it, folks—can he?

Dear Maxx people,

#21 was great! I can't wait to see Sara's out-back. And let me guess, Norbert The Nag is the new Maxx, right?

It's pretty cool seeing Gone in a whole new view. And seeing Sara a little bit older. But I have a few questions regarding #21-30:

1. Who the hell is Steve?
2. When will we see that 300-lb banana slug?
3. Will the Dave/Maxx and Julie be around in current issues?
4. What will issues #31 and up be about?

I'm having trouble finding back issues of The Maxx. Help!

C-ya!
Danny Fasold
Manassas, VA

1. See this issue.
2. See last issue.
3. Soon.
4. We're going past 30? My hand hurts, & so does my brain.
5. The back ish dilemma is solved two ways: (1) Head to Head, and (2) trade paperbacks. The first trade (issues 1-6) will be reprinted soon. Issues 7-11, the second trade, will be released in June or July.

Dear Sam,

From a storyline analysis, the characters repre-

sent so much of what we see in this life. I really relate to Sarah, from a pretty crappy childhood full of name-calling and social isolation, and how real her pain and confusion (as well as sarcastic mouth) are transferred. Julie was a great accomplishment; I disagree with the arguments of sexism, etc. She was a strong woman in a shi**y situation who dealt with the pain and shame as many others of us do...by burying it deep within ourselves until it leaks out in oozing trails to finger the boarded-up windows of our sanity. Excellent! And Maxx, well, caught in the middle with a loss of identity because he attempts to save others—how true!

You guys are the greatest.
Keep it up—all of it!
Jennifer and Ed
Allston, MA

Sam Kieth,
Why is the Maxx called The Maxx?
Steve Clark,
Collegeville, PA

That has never been revealed. There are some things we just do not need to know.

Sam and all the wonderful producers of Maxx,

Ish #21 brought me pretty damn close to tears, not just the story but the letters in Maxx Traxx. You guys convey humans so well, you show that everyone is different and that sometimes society isn't too accepting of these differences. You also show how experiences shape who a person is, and how a person is. You have approached and related a very traumatic experience in many people's lives (mostly women), which is rape. It is not a good thing and very scary, but you have shown how horrible it really is. You turned rape from a word into a horrible thing for me. That is an amazing thing, and it's so great to know it came from men, too.

Thanks,
Jenny
Nashville, TN

Thanxx.

Dear Sam,

I enjoyed #21 a lot, even though I was expecting to see Sara's outback in the first issue. I guess we sort of got to see her Maxx, though...I guess I can wait a little longer to see the banana slug.

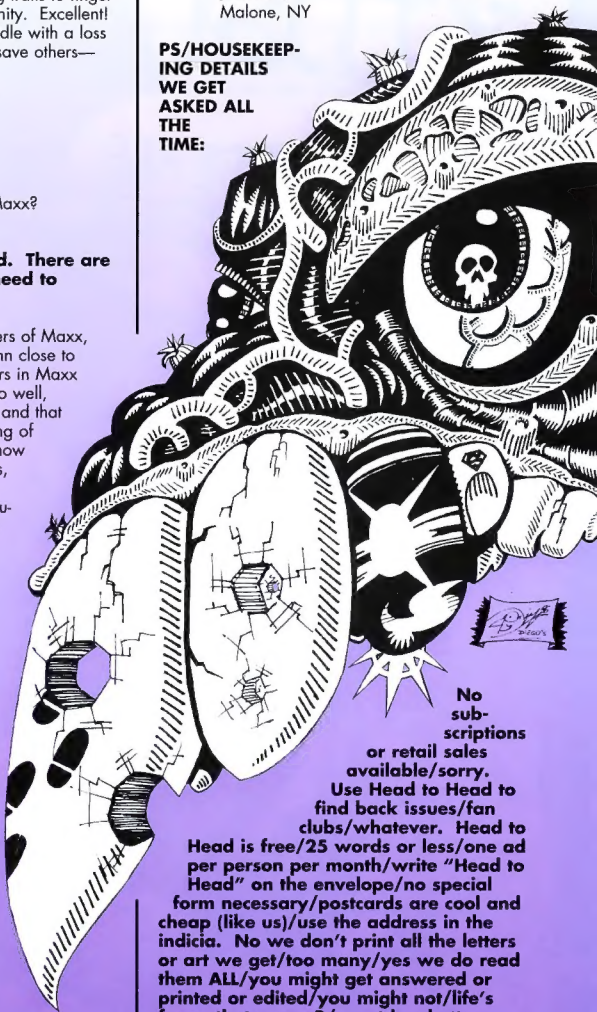
Trying to address the topic of Artie Pender could take up an entire thesis, so I won't even try. My friends and I will often have discussions about comics, but we generally talk about what we think is wrong with them. And discussions we have about The Maxx do revolve around the meaning(s) in it, but we don't like to over-analyze it because that would take away the fun. So,

this is one area of the book that I will gladly leave in your hands. I enjoy being part of the book as much as anyone else, but what makes the book so enjoyable is your vision. That's what led all of us here in the first place. And I shouldn't leave out everyone else who works on the book. I don't know if they get as much credit as they should, but they should.

Thanks,
Josh Miller
Malone, NY

DIEGO JOURDAN
Santiago, Chile

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TIME:**



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printed or edited/you might not/life's
funny that way. B/w art has better
chance of being published than
color/can't return artwork/sorry. Keep
'em coming/the better the letters and
submissions, the better the book!**

D.E. HOLMES
Valley, Alabama



RENE PFITZNER
Melbourne, Australia

